

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claim 13.

Please replace Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 10, 14, and 15, with the amended Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 10, 14, and 15, as shown below. Appendix B, which is attached hereto, highlights all of the amendments made to Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 10, 14, and 15.

1. (Amended) A fiber optic patch kit for patching a fiber optic cable having a first end and a second end, the kit comprising:

a fiber optic patch having first and second ends,

a first mechanical fiber optic splicer adapted to be coupled with the first end of the fiber optic cable and the first end of the fiber optic patch;

a second mechanical fiber optic splicer adapted to be coupled with the second end of the fiber optic cable and the second end of the fiber optic patch; and

a water-tight splice housing defining an internal cavity, the internal cavity being adapted to receive the first and second mechanical fiber optic splicers, the fiber optic patch, and a portion of the fiber optic cable.

2. (Amended) The fiber optic patch kit of claim 1, further comprising a protective housing defining an internal cavity, the internal cavity being adapted to receive the water-tight splice housing.

3. (Amended) The fiber optic patch kit of claim 1, further comprising a splice tray adapted to be removably disposed within the internal cavity of the water-tight splice housing.

4. (Amended) The fiber optic patch kit of claim 1, wherein the water-tight splice housing comprises:

a base having first and second ends;

*C*  
*cont*  
*A3*

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a top adapted to be coupled with the base, the top having first and second ends; a first end plate adapted to be coupled with the first ends of the top and base; and a second end plate adapted to be coupled with the second ends of the top and base.

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8. (Amended) A method for patching a fiber optic cable having a first end and a second end, the method comprising:

- (a) creating a first angle cleave at the first end of the fiber optic cable;
- (b) creating a second angle cleave at the second end of the fiber optic cable;
- (c) mechanically splicing the first end of the fiber optic cable to a first end of a fiber optic patch;
- (d) mechanically splicing the second end of the fiber optic cable to a second end of the fiber optic patch; and
- (e) enclosing the fiber optic patch and portions of the first and second ends of the fiber optic cable within an internal cavity of a water-tight splice housing.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein (a) and (b) comprise creating 45 degree angle cleaves.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein (c) and (d) comprise splicing the fiber optic cable and the fiber optic patch using mechanical fiber optic splicers.

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14. (Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising enclosing the water-tight splice housing within an internal cavity of a protective housing.

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15. (Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein (e) further comprises creating an air-tight seal within the internal cavity of the water-tight splice housing.

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Please add new Claims 16-21 as follows:

--16. (New) The method of claim 8, further comprising disposing at least a portion of the fiber optic patch in a splice tray.

17. (New) A method for patching a fiber optic cable that is buried underground and that has a first end and a second end, the method comprising:

- (a) excavating the first and second ends of the fiber optic cable;
- (b) mechanically splicing the first end of the fiber optic cable to a first end of a fiber optic patch;
- (c) mechanically splicing the second end of the fiber optic cable to a second end of the fiber optic patch; and
- (d) enclosing the fiber optic patch and portions of the first and second ends of the fiber optic cable within an internal cavity of a splice housing.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising creating a first angle cleave at the first end of the fiber optic cable prior to (b) and creating a second angle cleave at the second end of the fiber optic cable prior to (c).

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein (d) comprises enclosing the fiber optic patch and portions of the first and second ends of the fiber optic cable within an internal cavity of a water-tight splice housing.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising enclosing the splice housing within an internal cavity of a protective housing.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising burying the splice housing after (d).--